GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:160
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015
Amendment in Electricity Act
Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the power distribution companies functioning in the country including complaints received against them, Company/State/UT-wise during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any review on the performance of the power distribution companies in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend Electricity Act, 2003 so as to protect consumers from exploitation by the power distribution companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which Act is likely to be amended ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.160 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 30.07.2015 REGARDING AMENDMENT IN ELECTRICITY ACT.
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(a): The details of the power distribution companies functioning in the country is enclosed at Annex-I.

The distribution of electricity at retail level falls within the domain of respective State Governments and the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) are empowered to issue directions to the licensees under Section 23 of Electricity Act, 2003. The respective SERCs are also empowered to take action against the licensees under Section 19 & Section 24 of Electricity Act, 2003.

(b) : Yes, Madam. Power Finance Corporation publishes the 'Report on Performance of State Power Utilities'. The Report analyses state power utilities on a range of operational and financial parameters. The report covering the Performance of State Power Utilities selling power directly to consumers on key parameters is given at Annex - II, III & IV.

(c) & (d) : Government of India has proposed amendments to the Electricity Act 2003, which, inter-alia, include separation of carriage and content in the distribution sector. The other proposed amendments are strengthening of grid safety and security, Renewable Generation Obligation (RGO) for new coal and lignite based thermal generating plants, rationalization of tariff determination process, performance oversight of Regulatory Commissions and strict enforcement of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) etc.

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill containing the above said amendments was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2014. The Bill was subsequently referred to Standing Committee on Energy. The Committee has submitted its report on 07.05.2015. Based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Energy, Ministry of Power is expediting to move Official Amendments to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

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